

To the Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am James Hoffecker, a graduate student of Southern Connecticut State University and resident of New Haven, Connecticut and I write to you in strong support for the passage of HB 5530 because it is incredibly important to give students the right to opt of classroom animal dissection. There are students from all different educational levels who object to slicing open animals to dissect. Requiring the students to dissect, distracts students from learning, causes them psychological trauma, and discourages them from pursuing careers in science.

Across the country, schools and organizations such as the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers support dissection choice policies, and Connecticut should be too. Giving students the option to not dissect animals will not impede the learning of students. Schools can use computer programs, DVDs and models in place of dissection which have demonstrated themselves as suitable alternatives to the dissection process. These alternatives will save our state's schools time and money, particularly in this difficult time for our state's budget.

It is time for the State of Connecticut to join with fifteen other states, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York, and give the ability to the students of Connecticut to opt-out of dissection. It will be an invaluable to our state's students, and.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

James Hoffecker